

Message Text

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09313 290752Z

12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 AID-20 /169 W

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R 290650Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1777

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9313

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AF 5 PK

SUBJ: GOP CONCERN OVER AFGHANISTAN

SUMMARY: GOP HAS AGAIN REGISTERED WITH US ITS CONCERN

OVER WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE PROVOCATIVE AFGHAN POLICY
VIS-A-VIS PAKISTAN. GOP HAS REJECTED GOA PROTEST AGAINST
PAKISTAN ROADBUILDING PROJECT IN MOHMAND TRIBAL REGION.
ALTHOUGH GOP DESIRES TO MAINTAIN ITS COOL, IT WILL TAKE
APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PRESERVE ITS TERRITORIAL INTERESTS
IF GOA TAKES "HOSTILE MEASURES". EMPHASIZING OUR

INTEREST IN MAINTENANCE OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN

THESE TWO COUNTRIES, CHARGE SUGGESTED AGAIN THAT GOP
CONSIDER IMPROVING ITS LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS TO KABUL SO AS
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 09313 290752Z

TO PROMOTE USEFUL DIALOGUE IN THIS INCREASINGLY
TOUCHY SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ADDITIONAL FONSEC SHAIKH CALLED ME IN OCTOBER 27 FOR
A BRIEFING ON
CURRENT GOP VIEW OF EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

SINCE JULY COUP THERE. PAKS KNEW GOA HAS BEEN BRIEFING

VARIOUS EMBASSIES IN KABUL ON AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS; GOP BELIEVES USEFUL GIVE ITS OWN VIEWS. SHAIKH RECOUNTED WELL-KNOWN EVENTS WHICH HAD CAUSED CONCERN TO GOP: (A) DAUD'S INITIAL SPEECH IN WHICH HE HAD SINGLED OUT PAKISTAN AS ONLY FOREIGN COUNTRY WITH WHICH AFGHANISTAN HAD PROBLEM; (B) PAZHWAK'S "PROVOCATIVE" SPEECH TO ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, IN WHICH HE QUESTIONED PAKISTAN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND RECALLED BANGLADESH EXPERIENCE: (C) ACCUSATIONS BY AFGHAN MEDIA OF GOP INVOLVEMENT IN UNSUCCESSFUL (MAIWANDWAL) COUP. (SHAIKH CONFIRMED THAT GOA HAS NOT OFFICIALLY PROTESTED TO GOP REGARDING ALLEGED MAIWANDWAL COUP INVOLVEMENT.)

2. MOST RECENTLY, SHAIKH WENT ON, GOA HAD PROTESTED TO PAKISTAN EMBASSY IN KABUL AGAINST GOP ROADBUILDING IN "PAKHTOONISTAN". HE SAID THIS REFERRED TO ROAD BEING BUILT FROM USUF KHEL TO NAWAGAI IN MOHMAND TRIBAL AREA OF PAKISTAN. ROAD'S CLOSEST POINT TO AFGHANISTAN IS AT NAWAGAI, SOME 15 MILES FROM BORDER. SHAIKH ADDED THAT ROAD IS BEING BUILT AS PART OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORT WHICH ALSO INCLUDES SCHOOLS AND SOME OTHER CIVILIAN-TYPE FACILITIES. THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN KABUL, GOP HAS REJECTED GOA PROTEST ON GROUNDS IT DEALT WITH MATTER WITHIN COMPETANCE OF PAKISTAN.

3. THROUGHOUT PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, SHAIKH SAID, GOP HAS BEEN MAINTAINING ITS CALM REGARDING NEW GOA. HE RECALLED THAT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK WHILE IN US LAST MONTH, PRIMIN BHUTTO HAD SAID THAT HE WISHED DAUD WELL. BUT GOP WAS ASKING ITSELF WHAT IS DAUD'S MOTIVE IN RAISING THESE POINTS AGAINST PAKISTAN? APART FROM PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS, IF GOA TAKES HOSTILE MEASURES, SHAIKH SAID, GOP WILL HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 09313 290752Z

TO TAKE MEASURES OF ITS OWN TO PRESERVE ITS TERRITORIAL INTERESTS. WHEN I ASKED WHAT TYPE OF HOSTILE MEASURES HE HAD IN MIND, SHAIKH RECALLED THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD SENT LASHKAR (TRIBAL ARMED FORCE) INTO PAKISTAN TRIBAL TERRITORY DURING PREVIOUS DAUD REGIME.

4. MENTIONING USG-GOP DISCUSSIONS SHORTLY AFTER DAUD COUP OCCURRED IN JULY, SHAIKH SAID GOP CONTINUES BELIEVE SOVIETS WERE INVOLVED IN THE COUP. HE ASKED WHETHER USG HAD CHANGED ITS OWN VIEW. I RESPONDED THAT, TO MY RECOLLECTION, WE HAD SAID AT THAT TIME WE DID NOT HAVE EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS WERE ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN JULY COUP. WE DID NOT SAY THEY WERE DEFINITELY NOT INVOLVED. I WAS NOT AWARE OF NEW INFORMATION WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED US TO CHANGE OUR POSITION ON THAT QUESTION. IN ANY EVENT, I SAID, WE CONTINUED TO PLACE VERY HIGH IMPORTANCE ON MAINTENANCE OF

PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. MORE THAN THAT, WE HOPED THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD HAVE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE IN INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH EACH OTHER IN PEACEFUL FASHION, I SAID WE WONDERED WHETHER CURRENT CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KABUL AND ISLAMABAD WERE PROVING ADEQUATE TO THE TASK. I HAD MENTIONED THIS MATTER TO MINSTATE AZIZ AHMED IN A CONVERSATION EARLIER THIS WEEK, ASKING WHETHER GOP MIGHT NOT USEFULLY CONSIDER SENDING SOME SPECIAL EMISSARY TO KABUL TO TALK FRANKLY WITH AFGHAN LEADERSHIP. SHAIKH SAID HE WAS AWARE OF MY TALK WITH AZIZ AHMED, AND THAT GOP COULD CONSIDER SENDING SOMEONE TO TALK TO AFGHANS ON ANY SUBJECT BUT NOT REPEAT NOT ABOUT "PUKHTOONISTAN". I SAID I APPRECIATED GOP'S SENSITIVITIES BUT THOUGHT DIALOGUE SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT ON THAT ACCOUNT. IT MIGHT POSSIBLY DISPEL MISUNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES IF THERE WERE FRANK DIALOGUE. I THEN RECALLED THAT PRIMIN BHUTTO HIMSELF HAD SAID NOT LONG AGO THAT HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT TALKING TO GOA ON PUKHTOONISTAN (REF ISLAMABAD 6543 REPORTING ON BHUTTO'S MEETING IN AUGUST WITH SENATOR PERCY). SHAIKH SAID HE WOULD REVIEW THE RECORD.

5. SHAIKH TOLD ME THAT MFA WAS ALSO CALLING IN AMBASSADORS OF FRANCE, IRAN, TURKEY AND UK TO TALK ABOUT ITS CONCERN
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PAGE 04 ISLAMA 09313 290752Z

OVER AFGHANISTAN. I ASKED WHETHER SOV AMBASSADOR NOT INCLUDED. THERE FOLLOWED BRIEF DISCUSSION IN WHICH WE AGREED ON RELEVANCE OF USSR TO PRESENT PROBLEMS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. SHAIKH SAID IT HAD BEEN INTENDED THAT MFA WOULD ALSO CALL IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR, BUT HE THOUGHT AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED DURING A OCTOBER 26 MEETING BETWEEN SOV AMBASSADOR AND BHUTTO. HE WOULD CHECK RECORD ON THAT POINT AND ASK SOV AMBASSADOR TO COME IN IF SUBJECT WAS NOT IN FACT DISCUSSED WITH HIM BY BHUTTO.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NOTHING SUBSTANTIALLY NEW IN THIS PAK ACCOUNT OF CONCERN OVER AFGHAN POLICY SINCE DAUD COUP, IT CAN BE TAKEN TO REFLECT INCREASING LEVEL OF THAT CONCERN. AS BEFORE, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT PAKISTAN DESIRES TO PROVOKE AFGHANISTAN OR THAT IT INTENDS TO TAKE ANY OVERT ACTION AGAINST AFGHANISTAN IN THE ABSENCE OF STEPS WHICH GOP WOULD CONSIDER INTOLERABLY PROVOCATIVE.

7. I HAVE NOW HAD TWO OCCASIONS IN PAST WEEK TO PUT FORWARD SUGGESTION THAT PAKS ESTABLISH SOME NEW LINE OF

COMMUNICATION TO GOA. BEYOND THAT, EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON WHAT WE MIGHT DO OR NOT DO ABOUT THIS INCREASINGLY TOUCHY MATTER REMAIN AS RECENTLY EXPRESSED IN OUR

TEL 9076 (WHICH I HOPE HAS NOT BEEN LOST IN THE CRUSH OF
RECENT MIDEAST EVENTS).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISLAMA09313
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcefdi.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP CONCERN OVER AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: PINT, AF, PK
To: STATE INFO KABUL
NEW DELHI
TEHRAN
LONDON
MOSCOW
KARACHI
LAHORE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005